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January 8, 2008

Jane R. Summerson

M. Lee Bishop

Environmental Impact Statement Office

U.S. Department of Energy

Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management

1551 Hillshire Drive

Las Vegas, NV 89134

RRR000734

Re: Comments on draft Repository Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and draft Nevada Rail Corridor/Alignment Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Summerson and Mr. Bishop,

In response to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) draft Repository Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) and draft Nevada Rail Corridor/Alignment Environmental Impact Statement, I find several issues that should be addressed by the DOE in the course of developing both Final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS).

1 [Using the Yucca Mountain site to "dispose" of nuclear waste is a very risky and, therefore, an unacceptable choice as a nuclear waste repository. Geological fault lines run through and near the Yucca Mountain area. Yucca Mountain is extremely unstable to be used as a site for nuclear storage as unpredictable weather and geological changes are expected in that area.]

2 [Yucca Mountain is a sacred and beloved site to the local Native American tribes and has been for thousands of years. The Timbisha tribe and other Western Shoshone tribes have conducted spring

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renewal ceremonies on Yucca Mountain for an unknown time, and continue to do so into the present on the western portion they are still able to access. The SEIS also fails to mention the ongoing dispute and litigation involving the United States' violation of the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley with the western Shoshone which defines territorial borders for their nation of Nenow Sogobia as well outside the proposed land withdrawal. This treaty was fully ratified by Congress, and is legally "the Supreme law of the land". In April of 2004, the United Nation's Committee to End Racial Discrimination upheld the Shoshone claim in a record decision, and their declaration clearly identifies the Yucca Mountain Repository as one of several ongoing serious human rights violations by the United States against the Western Shoshone Nation.]

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There are serious risks associated with the "disposing" and transportation of nuclear waste. One of the most deadly waste materials, nuclear waste, should be stored on-site, in retrievable casks, not transported across the country. There is an extremely high likelihood that there will be adverse impacts to the drinking water supply, impacts from truck transport of nuclear waste, socio-economic impacts, impacts to cultural resources, and environmental justice issues.

Furthermore, a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain sets a bad and dangerous precedent, and creates a false sense of security for using nuclear ~~energy~~ ~~nuclear~~ ~~energy~~ ~~nuclear~~ ~~energy~~ while we should be focusing on alternative renewable energy sources.

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Overall, the research that storing nuclear waste in this site clearly shows safe or ethical and I do not wish to see this project carried out. For these and other reasons, Yucca Mountain is unacceptable as a nuclear waste repository.]

Sincerely,  
Alysha M. Thompson